

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 /076 W
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R 211415Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5883

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 10629

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, XF, LE

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 30TH UNGA

REF: BEIRUT 10360

SUMMARY SOUTH KOREAN VICE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS COME AND GONE AND BRITISH HAVE SUPPORTED OUR REPRESENTATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. LEBANON PROMISED SOUTH KOREANS SUPPORT FOR SOUTH KOREAN ATTENDANCE AT LIMA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE BUT CLEARLY INDICATED THEY WOULD ABSTAIN ON ALL RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING SOUTH OR NORTH KOREA AT FORTHCOMING UNGA. SOUTH KOREANS HAVE (UNWISELY IN OUR OPINION) REQUESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLO-MATICRELATIONS WITH LENANON, DESPITE FACT THIS WOULD MEAN SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. END SUMMARY.

1. HEAD OF SOUTH KOREAN TRADE MISSION CHUNG INFORMED ME EARLIER THIS WEEK OF LINE OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN VISITING SOUTH KOREAN VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LU SHEN YUNG AND FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA AUGUST 18. CHUNG SAID TAQLQ PROMISED LEBANON WOULD GENERALLY SUPPORT SOUTH KOREAN REQUEST TO BE INCLUDED IN LIMA NON-ALIGNED
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CONFERENCE. TAQLA ALSO EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR SOUTH KOREAN

POSITION REGARDING ISSUE AT UPCOMING UNGA SESSION AND SAID LEBANON WOULD KEEP SOUTH KOREAN DESIRES IN MIND BUT WOULD HAVE TO VOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LARGER ARAB INTERESTS. FINALLY, SOUTH KOREANS REQUESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, RAISING LEVEL OF PRESENT TRADE MISSION HERE. TAQLA REPLIED THAT LEBANON WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREANS AND IF THIS HAPPENS THUS RAISING STATUS OF PRESENT NORTH KOREAN TRADE MISSION HERE.

2. ON THIS LAST POINT CHUNG TOLD ME HE PERSONALLY HAS ADVISED AGAINST SEEKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS FOR REASONS I HAD ALREADY REHEARSED WITH HIM. NAMELY THAT THIS WOULD PERMIT MUCH WIDER NORTH KOREAN ACTIVITY HERE (NOTING THAT NORTH KOREANS ALREADY MAINTAIN LARGER NUMBER OF STAFF MEMBERS IN BEIRUT THAN DO SOUTH KOREANS) CHUNG SAID HE HAD BEEN OVERRULED BY HIS VICE FOREIGN MINISTER I AGAIN REPEAT THAT THIS IS A SILLY MOVE BY SOUTH KOREANS WHICH DEPARTMENT SHOULD TRY TO HAVE REVERSED IN SEOUL.

3. CHUNG AND WE INTERPRET TAQLA'S COMMENTS ON LEBANESE POSITION IN UNGA AS PRESAGING ABSTENTION ON ALL RESOLUTIONS CONNECTED WITH SOUTH OR NORTH KOREA. THIS IS IMPRESSION GAINED BY BRITISH DCM AS WELL, WHEN ON AUGUST 20 HE SUPPORTED OUR EARLIER REPRESENTATION TO FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPARTMENT HEAD HADDAD (REFTEL). HADDAD TOLD BRITISH DCM THAT TAQLA IS PERSONALLY MAKING ALL DECISIONS ON THIS MATTER AND IS FOLLOWING LONG ESTABLISHED PRACTICE HE HAS SET. THIS POLICY WAS REITERATED IN PRESS RELEASE BY FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN AUGUST 18 WHICH SAID IN PART QUOTE THE LEBANESE POSITION ON THE KOREAN ISSUE HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY CONFIRMED. AT PRESENT LEBANON DOES NOT RECOGNIZE EITHER OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AND IT HAS CONSISTENTLY ABSTAINING FROM VOTING ON THE KOREAN ISSUE AT ALL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AT WHICH QUESTIONS RELATED TO KOREAN HAVE BEEN RAISED, UNQUOTE.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, VOTING ABSTENTIONS, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT10629
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750289-0912
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750829/aaaaayqh.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BEIRUT 10360
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREA AT 30TH UNGA
TAGS: PFOR, KS, XF, LE, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006